What is claimed is:

1.     A method for signaling and negotiation between a client and a server in a multimedia streaming service, wherein a plurality of adaptation mechanisms or capabilities for use in the service for data delivery are supported by the client, each adaptation mechanism or capability having an attribute, said method comprising:

the client providing information indicative of the attributes defining the adaptation mechanisms or capabilities that are supported by the client;

the server selecting one or more of the attributes based on the provided information; and

the server providing further information indicative of the selected attributes so as to allow the client to know the one or more adaptation mechanisms or capabilities defined by the one or more attributes selected by the server.

2.     The method of claim 1, wherein the client provides the information via a capability exchange mechanism.

3.     The method of claim 1, wherein the client provides the information via a multimedia streaming control protocol.

4.     The method of claim 1, further comprising

the server providing indication of a capability to the client prior to the client providing information.

5.     A method for signaling and negotiation between two parties including a client and a server in a multimedia streaming service, wherein a plurality of adaptation mechanisms or capabilities for use in the server for data delivery are supported by the client, each adaptation mechanism or capability having an attribute, said method comprising:

providing by one of the two parties to the other of the two parties information indicative of one or more adaptation mechanisms or capabilities; and

conveying a message from said other party to said party, in response to the information, acknowledging supporting of said one or more adaptation mechanisms or capabilities.

6.      The method of claim 5, wherein said one party is the server and the other party is the client, and wherein

the client acknowledges support by using the attributes defining said one or more adaptation mechanisms or capabilities in the responding message.

7.      The method of claim 5, wherein said one party is the client and the other party if the server, and wherein

the client provides a plurality of attributes; and

the server selects one or more of the provided attributes based on the provided information for acknowledging the support.